Uzbek language

Uzbek is a Turkic language that is the first official and only declared national language of Uzbekistan. The language of Uzbeks, it is spoken by some 27 million native speakers in Uzbekistan and elsewhere in Central Asia (2015), making it the second-most widely spoken Turkic language after Turkish.

Uzbek belongs to the Eastern Turkic or Karluk branch of the Turkic language family. External influences include Arabic, Persian and Russian. One of the most noticeable distinctions of Uzbek from other Turkic languages is the rounding of the vowel $/\alpha$ / to /p/, a feature that was influenced by Persian. As with its sister Karluk language Uyghur, vowel harmony is somewhat less strictly observed compared to other Turkic languages.

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Uzbek		
Oʻzbekcha, oʻzbek tili, Ўзбекча, ўзбек или, اوْزبېچە, اوْز.بېك تىلى		
Native to	Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, China	
Ethnicity	Uzbeks	
Native speakers	27 million (2015) ^[1]	
Language family	Turkic	
	Common Turkic	
	■ Karluk ^[2]	
	Uzbek	
Early form	Middle Turkic	
Writing system	Latin Cyrillic Perso-Arabic ^[a] Uzbek Braille (Uzbek alphabets)	
Official st	atus	
Official language in	Uzbekistan	
Recognised minority language in	Afghanistan ^[b] Tajikistan Kazakhstan Turkmenistan Russia China	
Regulated by	Tashkent State University of	

Name

In the language itself, Uzbek is oʻzbek tili or oʻzbekcha. In Cyrillic, it is ўзбек тили ог ўзбекча. In Arabic script, اوْزْبْنِيكُم and اوْزْبْنِيكُم .

History

Turkic speakers probably settled the <u>Amu Darya</u>, <u>Syr Darya</u> and <u>Zarafshan</u> river basins from at least 600–700 CE, gradually ousting or assimilating the speakers of <u>Eastern Iranian languages</u> who previously inhabited <u>Sogdia</u>, <u>Bactria</u> and <u>Khwarezm</u>. The first Turkic dynasty in the region was that of the <u>Kara-Khanid Khanate</u> in the 9th–12th centuries, ^[5] who were a confederation of Karluks, Chigils, Yaghma and other tribes. ^[6]

Uzbek can be considered the direct descendant or a later form of Chagatai, the language of great Turkic Central Asian literary development in the realm of Chagatai Khan, Timur (Tamerlane), and the Timurid dynasty^[7] (including the early Mughal rulers of India). The language was championed by Ali-Shir Nava'i in the 15th and 16th centuries. Nava'i was the greatest representative of Chagatai language literature. [8][9] He significantly contributed to the development of the Chagatai language and its direct descendant Uzbek and is widely considered to be the founder of Uzbek literature. [10][11][12][13][14][15][16] Ultimately based on the Karluk variant of the Turkic languages, Chagatai contained large numbers of Persian and Arabic loanwords. By the 19th century it was rarely used for literary composition, but disappeared only in the early 20th century.

The term *Uzbek* as applied to language has meant different things at different times. Prior to 1921 "Uzbek" and "Sart" were considered to be different dialects:

"Uzbek" was a vowel-harmonised Kipchak variety spoken by descendants of those who arrived in Transoxiana with Muhammad Shaybani in the 16th century, who lived mainly around Bukhara and Samarkand, although the Turkic spoken in Tashkent was also vowel-harmonised. It can be called old Uzbek and it's considered to be related to that specific group of people.

"Sart" was a Karluk dialect spoken by the older settled Turkic populations of the region in the Fergana Valley and the Qashqadaryo Region, and in some parts of what is now the Samarqand Region; it contained a heavier admixture of Persian and Arabic, and did not have vowel harmony. It became the standard Uzbek language and the official dialect of Uzbekistan.

minority

In <u>Khanate of Khiva</u>, Sarts spoke a highly <u>Oghuz</u> Turkified form of <u>Karluk</u> Turkic. After 1921 the Soviet regime abolished the term *Sart* as derogatory, and decreed that henceforth the entire settled Turkic population of Turkestan would be known as *Uzbeks*, even though many had no Uzbek tribal heritage.

	Uzbek language and			
	literature •			
Language codes				
ISO 639-1	uz (https://ww w.loc.gov/stan dards/iso639- 2/php/langcode s_name.php?iso _639_1=uz)			
ISO 639-2	uzb (https://w ww.loc.gov/sta ndards/iso639- 2/php/langcode s_name.php?cod e_ID=476)			
ISO 639-3	uzb – inclusive code Individual codes: uzn – Northern uzs – Southern			
Glottolog	uzbe1247 (htt p://glottolog. org/resource/l anguoid/id/uzb e1247) ^[4]			
Linguasphere	44-AAB-da, db			
Dark blue = majority; light blue =				

However, the standard written language that was chosen for the new republic in 1924, despite the protests of Uzbek Bolsheviks such as Fayzulla Khodzhayev, was not pre-revolutionary "Uzbek" but the "Sart" language of the Samarkand region. Edward A. Allworth argued that this "badly distorted the literary history of the region" and was used to give authors such as the 15th-century author Ali-Shir Nava'i an Uzbek identity. [17] All three dialects continue to exist within modern spoken Uzbek.

Writing systems

Uzbek has been written in a variety of scripts throughout history:

- Pre-1928: the Arabic-based Yaña imlâ alphabet by literates, approximately 3.7% of Uzbeks at the time. [18]
 - 1880s: Russian missionaries attempted to use Cyrillic for Uzbek. [18]
- 1928–1940: the Latin-based Yañalif used officially.
- 1940–1992: the Cyrillic script used officially.
- Since 1992: a Yañalif-based Latin script is official in Uzbekistan.

Despite the official status of the Latin script in Uzbekistan, the use of Cyrillic is still widespread, especially in advertisements and signs. In newspapers, scripts may be mixed, with headlines in Latin and articles in Cyrillic.^[19] The Arabic script is no longer used in Uzbekistan except symbolically in limited texts^[19] or for the academic studies of Chagatai (Old Uzbek).^[18]



A 1911 text in the Uyghur Arabic alphabet

In the western Chinese region of Xinjiang, where there is an Uzbek minority, Arabic is still used.

In Afghanistan, the traditional Arabic orthography is still used.

Grammar

Phonology

Vowels

Standard Uzbek has six vowel phonemes:^[20]

	Unrounded	Rounded
Close	İ	u
Mid	е	0
Open	æ	α

Consonants

		Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Nasal		m		n		ŋ		
Plosive/Affricate	voiceless	р	ţ	(ts)	tĴ	k	q	(?)
	voiced	b	₫		d3	g		
Fricative voiceless	voiceless	ф		s	ſ		χ	h
			Z	(3)		R		
Approxima	ant			I	j	W		
Rhotic			١					

Morphology and syntax

As a Turkic language, Uzbek is <u>null subject</u>, <u>agglutinative</u> and has no <u>articles</u> and no <u>noun classes</u> (gender or otherwise). The word order is <u>subject-object-verb</u> (SOV). Words are usually <u>oxytones</u> (i.e. the last syllable is stressed), but certain endings and suffixal particles are not stressed.

In Uzbek, there are two main categories of words:

- nominals (equivalent to nouns, pronouns, adjectives and some adverbs)
- verbals (equivalent to verbs and some adverbs)

Verbs

Uzbek uses the following verbal suffixes:

Suffix	Function	Example	Translation
-moq	infinitive	kelmoq	to come
-di	past tense	keldi	came
-ing	imperative	keling!	come!
-sa	conditional	kelsa	would come

The present and future tenses are both expressed with the -*a* and -*y* suffixes.

Articles

Nouns take the -ni suffix as an indefinite article. Unsuffixed nouns are understood as definite.

Pronouns

Pronoun	Translation
men	I
biz	we
sen	you (informal singular)
siz	you (formal singular and plural)
и	he/she/it
ular	they

Word order

The word order in the Uzbek language is <u>subject-object-verb</u> (SOV), like all other <u>Turkic languages</u>. Unlike in English, the object comes before the verb and the verb is the last element of the sentence.

I see the book			
Men	kitobni	ko'rdim	
subject	direct object	transitive verb	
1.SG.	book	see-PRES.IND.	

Number of speakers

Estimates of the number of speakers of Uzbek vary widely, from 25 up to 30 million. *Ethnologue* estimates put the number of native speakers at 27 million across all the recognized dialects. The Swedish national encyclopedia, *Nationalencyklopedin*, estimates the number of native speakers to be 30 million, [21] and the *CIA World Factbook* estimates 25 million. Other sources estimate the number of speakers of Uzbek to be 21 million in Uzbekistan, [22] 3.4 million in Afghanistan, [23] 900,000 in Tajikistan, [24] 800,000 in Kyrgyzstan, [25] 500,000 in Kazakhstan, [26] 300,000 in Turkmenistan, [27] and 300,000 in Russia. [28]

Influences

The influence of Islam, and by extension, Arabic, is evident in Uzbek loanwords. There is also a residual influence of Russian, from the time when Uzbeks were under the rule of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. Most importantly, Uzbek vocabulary, phraseology and pronunciation has been heavily influenced by Persian through its historic roots. Uzbek has been significantly influenced by Persian and it also influenced Tajik (a variety of Persian). Of the Turkic languages, Uzbek is perhaps the one most strongly influenced by Persian.

Dialects

Uzbek can be roughly divided into three dialect groups. The Karluk dialects, centered on Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, and the Ferghana Valley, are the basis for the standard Uzbek language. This dialect group shows the most influence of Persian vocabulary, particularly in the historically Persian cities of Bukhara and Samarkand. The Kipchak dialect, spoken from the <u>Surxondaryo region</u> through north-central Uzbekistan into Karakalpakstan, show significant influence from the Kipchak Turkic languages, particularly

in the mutation of [j] to [3] as in <u>Kazakh</u> and <u>Kyrgyz</u>. The Oghuz dialect, spoken mainly in <u>Khorezm</u> along the Turkmenistan border, is notable for the mutation of word-initial [k] to [g].

By country

Turkmenistan

In Turkmenistan since the 2000s the government conducted a forced "Turkmenization" of ethnic Uzbeks living in the country. [31][32][33]



Wikitongues contributor speaking

In the Soviet years and in the 1990s, the Uzbek language was used freely in Turkmenistan. There were several hundred schools in the Uzbek language, many newspapers were published in this language. Now there are only a few Uzbek schools in the country, as well as a few newspapers in Uzbek. Despite this, the Uzbek language is still considered to be one of the recognized languages of national minorities in this country. From 300 to 600 thousand Uzbeks live in Turkmenistan. Most of the Uzbek speakers live in Dashoghuz Velayat, as well as in Lebap Velayat and partly in Ashghabad.^[34]

Russia

Uzbek is one of the many recognized languages of national minorities in Russia. More than 400 thousand Uzbeks are citizens of the Russian Federation and live in this country. Also in Russia there are 2 to 6 million Uzbeks from the Central Asian republics (mainly Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) who are immigrants and migrants. Large diasporas of Uzbeks live in such large cities of Russia as Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Kazan, Volgograd, Samara, Rostov-on-Don, Perm, Nizhny Novgorod, Chelyabinsk, Vladivostok, Ufa, Krasnoyarsk, Omsk, Krasnodar, Voronezh, Saratov and Tyumen. Signs in Uzbek are often found in these cities. Signs refer mainly to various restaurants and eateries, barbershops, shops selling fruits, vegetables and textile products. There is a small clinic, where signs and labels in the Uzbek language. There are also illegal signs in Uzbek on the streets of these cities with underground sex services ("Call girls"). Uzbeks in Russia prefer to use the Cyrillic Uzbek alphabet, but in recent years Uzbek youth in Russia are also actively using the Latin Uzbek alphabet. Small newspapers in Uzbek are published in large cities of Russia. [35][36][37] Some instructions for immigrants and migrants are duplicated, including in Uzbek. Uzbek language is studied by Russian students in the faculties of Turkology throughout Russia. [38] The largest Uzbek language learning centers in Russia are located in the universities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg. There are also many Russians who are interested in and love the Uzbek language and culture and who study this language for themselves. Uzbek is one of the most studied languages among the many languages of the former USSR in Russia. Native speakers of Uzbek in Russia usually use in their vocabulary a lot of words from Russian. [39]

See also

- Chagatai language^[40]
- Southern Uzbek language

Notes

- a. Used in Afghanistan and China
- b. Third official language in areas where Uzbeks are majority^[3]

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External links

Converters

- Uzbek Cyrillic-Latin converter (http://www.transliteration.kpr.eu/uz/)
- Uzbek Cyrillic-Latin text and website converter (http://baltoslav.eu/lat/index.php?mova=en&j=uz)
- Uzbek Latin-Cyrillic text and website converter (http://baltoslav.eu/cyr/index.php?mova=en&j=u
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